

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SU, PINS, EAID, BAGB, SA, KU

SUBJECT: SUDAN MINISTER MUSTAFA'S CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING NASR EL DIN MUSTAFA CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON ON AUGUST 19. MUSTAFA, THE ALTERNATE IBRD GOVERNOR FOR SUDAN, WAS IN WASHINGTON PRIMARILY TO MEET WITH WORLD BANK OFFICIALS, BUT HE ALSO WISHED TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE U.S. VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. HE SAID NIMEIRI HAD CREATED A SPECIAL DESK IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO MONITOR RESULTS OF HIS TRIP. THE DESK DEALT WITH THE MINISTERS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED NIMEIRI PLUS MUSTAFA AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING.

2. BUSINESS COUNCIL: MUSTAFA REFERRED TO THE SUGGESTION OF A SUDAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL MADE BY DAVID SCOTT OF ALLIS-CHALMERS. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE COMPOSED OF
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MEMBERS FROM THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR, AND REPRESENTATIVES

OF BOTH THE SUDAN PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOS. MUSTAFA CONFIRMED THAT MR. BREWER OF THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS EXPECTED IN SUDAN SHORTLY, AND ASKED IF THE USG REQUIRED ANY ACTION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ESTABLISH THE COUNCIL. THE ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WHILE WE ENCOURAGED THIS EFFORT, SINCE IT WAS PRIVATE AND DID NOT INVOLVE THE USG NOTHING FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS EXPECTED.

3. TRILATERAL OR QUADRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS:
TRILATERAL (OR QUADRILATERAL) CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GOS, AND SAUDI ARABIA OR KUWAIT WERE DISCUSSED DURING MR. ROBINSON'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT OVER A YEAR AGO WHEN BOTH DONOR ARAB GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOTED THEIR NEED FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE SUPPLIED BY U.S. SOURCES. THE ACTING SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS HAD TO COME FROM THE SUDAN. MUSTAFA REPLIED THAT WHEN SUDAN OBTAINED ARAB FINANCING, THE GOS WAS GENERALLY FREE TO GET THE CONCOMITANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHERE THEY WOULD. ARAB DONOR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE WORKING LEVELS WERE KEPT WELL INFORMED. HE BELIEVED THAT WITH THIS BACKGROUND TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS COULD EASILY BE INSTITUTED.

4. ALLIS-CHALMERS TRAINING PROJECT: MUSTAFA THEN DISCUSSED ANALLIS CHALMERS TRAINING PROJECT FOR 10 ENGINEERS AND 20 TECHNICIANS WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO START IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WHICH WOULD COST SOMEWHAT MORE THAN DOLS. 600,000 FOR 18 MONTHS OF TRAINING. HE HAD HOPED THAT AID COULD FUND IT, AND HE NEEDED AN IMMEDIATE INDICATION SINCE THE DECISION ON THE PROJECT HAD TO BE MADE IN AUGUST. HE THEREFORE HAD SEEN THAT THE AID REPRESENTATIVE IN KHARTOUM WAS INFORMED. THE ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE PROJECT SOUNDED WORTHWHILE, BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER IT COULD BE FUNDED BY AID. (IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH MR. NORTH, AID DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA, MUSTAFA WAS TOLD THAT AID COULD NOT FUND THIS ALLIS-CHALMERS TRAINING PROJECT IN ITS PRESENT FORM, FOR REASONS POST HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN.)
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5. NIMEIRI'S POSITION: IN RESPONSE TO THE ACTING SECRETARY'S INQUIRY, MUSTAFA SAID THAT NIMEIRI HAD GAINED IN STRENGTH FOLLOWING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT. THE GOS SHORTLY EXPECTED TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF A SIX-NATION FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE, BUT IT WAS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THE COUP WAS ORGANIZED AND SUPPORTED BY LIBYA. ROGERS

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